

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 46
BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
3 AND WELFARE TO CONVENE A COUNCIL TO COORDINATE AND DEVELOP A COMPREHEN-
4 SIVE SET OF STANDARDS, POLICIES, RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF
5 TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE IN IDAHO.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, telehealth is a mode of delivering health care services that
8 uses information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis,
9 consultation, treatment, education, care management and self-management of
10 patients at a distance from health providers; and

11 WHEREAS, telemedicine is the use of medical information exchanged from
12 one site to another via electronic communications to improve a patient's
13 health status; and

14 WHEREAS, 35 of Idaho's 44 counties are rural or frontier, and many areas
15 have limited access to specialty care; and

16 WHEREAS, telehealth and telemedicine can provide a wide variety of in-
17 patient, outpatient and emergency services throughout the state while rural
18 hospitals remain financially viable because patient revenues remain in the
19 community; and

20 WHEREAS, with telemedicine and telehealth, patients receive appropri-
21 ate and timely access to specialty services, thereby reducing costs as focus
22 switches to prevention and improved management; and

23 WHEREAS, telehealth and telemedicine can result in significant savings
24 to patients and payors by avoiding travel costs, duplication of tests and
25 loss of work time; and

26 WHEREAS, rural Idaho continues to face challenges recruiting and re-
27 taining physicians, telehealth and telemedicine will play an increasingly
28 important role; and

29 WHEREAS, Idaho needs consistent standards, policies and procedures to
30 ensure proper use and security for telehealth and telemedicine.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
32 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
33 the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Department of Health and Wel-
34 fare should convene a council to coordinate and develop a comprehensive set
35 of standards, policies, rules and procedures for the use of telehealth and
36 telemedicine in Idaho.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Department shall include a broad stake-
38 holder base in the membership of the council including, but not limited to,
39 physicians in rural and urban areas familiar with the use of telehealth or
40 telemedicine, hospital administrators in rural and urban areas, a represen-
41 tative of health insurance carriers in this state, a representative from the
42 Bureau of Occupational Licenses, a representative from the Idaho Hospital
43 Association, a member of the State of Idaho Board of Medicine, a representa-

1 tive from Idaho's State Hospitals and a representative from the Department
2 of Health and Welfare.